

Remarks

Applicant appreciates the kind attention provided by Examiner William A. Rivera during the interview on May 3, 2007.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application, of which claims 1-17 have been rejected. By this paper, Applicant cancels claims 1-10, 12 and 18, and amends claims 11, 13, 15 and 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maxey (U.S. Patent No. 4,275,424). By this paper, Applicant has canceled claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12.

Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and therefore no new issues have been raised by the amendment to claim 13. As discussed in the interview, claim 13 includes limitations that are not disclosed in Maxey. Specifically, claim 13 requires "said tape path including a portion that starts at said first pair of flanged guides and ends at said second pair of flanged guides; and said portion of said tape path being symmetrical about said axis." Referring to Figure 9 of Maxey, the portion of the tape path that starts at rollers 126b, 130b and ends at rollers 130b, 128b is not symmetrical about the longitudinal axis. Therefore, as agreed in the interview, claim 13 is not anticipated by Maxey.

Claims 11, 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and therefore are not anticipated for the reasons stated above with reference to claim 13. Since claim 13 is in allowable form, no new issues have been raised by amending claims 11 and 15 to depend from claim 13.

INTERVIEW
SUMMARY
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